

In doing so, Jefferson demonstrated great bravery, instinct and skill when he saved the lives of Brandy, Patrick and Lynzee. For his efforts, Jefferson was awarded the New York State Senate Liberty medal, one of the highest civilian honors a New Yorker can receive.

His actions are nothing short of heroic, demonstrating the best in our citizenry through selflessness and courage. I stand with everyone in the community thanking him for this selfless act and his continued commitment to public service and to serving this country.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO CREATE A PERMANENT INSPECTOR
GENERAL FOR THE METROPOLITAN
WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing legislation that would create a permanent inspector general for the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA).

My bill would amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 by creating a special post with the sole duty of providing long term oversight of MWAA. Only the U.S. Secretary of Transportation can appoint and remove the IG and no additional action from any jurisdiction on the state or local level is required for this position to be established. In addition, MWAA would be required to pay for the IG using its revenues, not taxpayer dollars.

I am reintroducing this legislation because I believe that due to the continued growth of the Dulles corridor, the Dulles rail project is the most important transportation project in the Commonwealth. It must be completed on time and at, or under, budget.

I appreciate Secretary Ray LaHood appointing an accountability officer to monitor the MWAA, but it is clear this entity, which is responsible for overseeing the entire construction of the Dulles rail project, requires a permanent IG to provide long term oversight of its actions.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. CHARLES
CHRESTMAN

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Charles Chrestman, of Lumberton, North Carolina, for his commitment and service to his community. Dr. Chrestman retired from his position as President of Robeson Community College on December 31, 2012, but his legacy of dedicated leadership in education will stay strong for generations to come. Dr. Chrestman has not only been a steward to higher education in Robeson County, but a trusted advisor and dear friend.

Dr. Chrestman's colleagues acknowledge the remarkable progress the college has made during his decade of service as President. During his tenure, Dr. Chrestman worked to reaffirm Robeson Community College's status

as a nationally accredited institution. He also helped oversee the creation of three new buildings on campus: a Continuing Education building, a Health Science building, and a Workforce Development Center. Two others were completely renovated. The College also landed one of the state's NCCCS Biotechnology Network regional centers that now serves a statewide role in advancing bio-agriculture.

Dr. Chrestman's dream was to see all graduates become productive laborers within the community and the great state of North Carolina. During his tenure, Robeson Community College began offering the ACT's WorkKeys Assessment, which leads to a Career Readiness Certificate. Today, Robeson County ranks in the top three among the state's 100 counties with more than 5,000 individuals holding the certificate. These and many other accomplishments are a testament to Dr. Chrestman's leadership.

I am personally grateful to Dr. Chrestman for his service as Chairman of my Education Advisory Committee, a small group of education leaders from the seventh congressional district of North Carolina who regularly meet to discuss education issues affecting our communities. His leadership in this capacity has been invaluable to me, and I will remain thankful.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Dr. Charles Chrestman's forty years in higher education as he retires as President of Robeson Community College. His long record of public service will continue to benefit the students and citizens of Robeson County and beyond.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, On January 3, 2009, the day I took office, the national debt was \$10,627,961,295,930.67.

Today, it is \$16,432,643,996,680.64. We've added \$5,804,682,700,749.97 to our debt in 4 years. This is a \$5.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a Balanced Budget Amendment. We must stop this unconscionable accumulation of debt.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW
COLUMBIA ADMISSION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the New Columbia Admission Act. The residents of our nation's capital are and always have been citizens of the United States. Yet they are the only taxpaying Americans who are not treated as full and equal citizens. The only way for them to obtain the citizenship rights they are entitled to is through the same statehood used by other Americans. Therefore, I am introducing the New Columbia Admission Act to create a state from essentially the eight home-town wards of the District

of Columbia. This 51st state, however, would have no jurisdiction over the federal territory, or enclave that now consists of the Washington that Members of Congress and visitors associate with the capital of our country. The U.S. Capitol premises, the principal federal monuments, federal buildings and grounds, the National Mall and other federal property here would remain under federal jurisdiction. Our bill provides that the State of New Columbia would be equal to the other fifty states in all respects. Consequently, residents of New Columbia would have all the rights of citizenship they are entitled to as taxpaying American citizens, including two senators and, initially, one House member.

Just as the New Columbia Admission Act was the first bill I introduced after I was first sworn in as a Member of Congress in the 102nd Congress in 1991, this is my first bill in the 113th Congress. Our first try for statehood received significant support in the House. In 1993, we got the first and only vote on statehood for the District, with nearly 60% of Democrats and one Republican voting for the New Columbia Admission Act. The Senate held a hearing on its companion bill, introduced by Senator Ted Kennedy, but the committee of jurisdiction did not proceed further. Although this start was encouraging, soon thereafter, the District, which is the only U.S. city that pays for state functions, found it necessary to ask the federal government to take over the costs of some state functions, posing fiscal barriers to entry into the Union on an equal basis, and in addition, the Democrats lost control of the House. The District of Columbia recognizes that it can enter the Union only on an equal basis and is prepared to do so. I then introduced the second best option available, a bill for Senate and House representation for D.C., and later, when Republicans controlled the House, a bill for a House vote. Because these bills had strong support from Democrats, I will introduce them again as well, but with the understanding that residents will never stop short of their full citizenship rights and, therefore, of statehood.

The final analysis is that we have no alternative. To be content with less than statehood is to concede the equality of citizenship that is the birthright of our residents as citizens of the United States. It is too late for the residents of the District of Columbia to make such a concession as we approach the 212th year in our fight for equal treatment in our country. This bill is the first I file in the 113th Congress, and it reaffirms our determination to obtain each and every right enjoyed by citizens of the United States by becoming the 51st State of the Union.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, due to a family emergency, I was unable to be in Washington, D.C. for the votes that occurred on January 3, 2013 and January 4, 2013 and was not sworn in as a Member of Congress until January 14, 2013. As a result, I missed the votes listed below. I regret missing these votes but it was necessary to be in Portland